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Dazzling Community Arts Celebration Set for June 8

CLEVELAND — **Parade the Circle Celebration**, featuring a Carnevale-inspired parade, plus dozens of hands-on activities offered throughout the day by more than 25 University Circle organizations, is set for **Saturday, June 8, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.** in University Circle — Cleveland's cultural hub. New this year will be interactive activities and musical performances all along the parade route to engage the audience in creative enjoyment as they wait in excited anticipation for the flowing procession. Presented by University Circle Incorporated (UCI) and the Cleveland Museum of Art (CMA), this **free**, daylong event engages thousands of participants and spectators in a display of brilliant color and creative fun. The Parade, sponsored by Metropolitan Bank & Trust, will begin at noon and proceed around Wade Oval.

The Parade

"The Parade is a unique and pro-community event that combines local and international talent to produce one of Ohio's premier cultural events," explains Robin VanLear, artistic director of Parade and CMA's community arts program. "We are grateful to Metropolitan Bank & Trust, The George Gund Foundation, and other funders who recognize our efforts and continue to give us the support we need."

Parade the Circle is unlike most parades — logos, words, motorized vehicles and live animals (except wheelchairs and assist dogs) are omitted from the procession. Instead, it relies solely on artistic expression and creativity, focusing on flamboyant, handmade masks and costumes, giant puppets, dancers and stiltdancers, human-powered floats, and music ensembles.

"The theme for this year's Parade is 'Salmagundi'," notes VanLear. "Salmagundi means many things, including a potpourri or heterogeneous mixture. It is also an eclectic salad of meat, egg, and colorful vegetables, artfully arranged and highly seasoned. The diversity and creativity that generates the Parade produces a spicy and vibrant visual feast. Salmagundi is a perfect way to describe it."

First-time Parade participants include representatives from Youth Challenge, a Cleveland-based sports and recreation program for children with physical disabilities; Hilliard Elementary (Westlake); the Southwest Arts Partnership (SWAP); Chapman Elementary (Strongsville); Riveredge Elementary (Berea); the Health Museum of

Cleveland; Teatro Popular, a Playhouse Square Foundation outreach program; and *Aquarela do Mundo*, a *samba* school.

SWAP, an organization that promotes arts opportunities within the communities and school districts of Berea, Brookpark, Middleburg Heights, Strongsville, Olmsted Falls and Township, and Columbia Station, will take part in the Parade with **The Love That Could Have Been There**. Designed by the Cuban-born Cleveland artist Augusto Bordelois, the ensemble will be composed of a dozen people-powered puppets, each 12 feet tall. Inspired by lost love and missed opportunities of days gone by, the puppets will include "Door Keepers," two black-winged, witch-like figures that — with good or bad intentions — keep or deter one from love or adventure. Four "Knights of Love," clad in priest-like white robes with black and red wings, protect these past decisions. Lost love is represented by six fanciful creatures that could be birds, dragons, or butterflies, which haunt one's dreams.

More than two dozen youth and parents from Teatro Popular, working with Case Western Reserve University Spanish instructors, the Cleveland Public Library, and CMA artists Wendy Mahon and Hector Castellanos Lara, will create an ensemble featuring the *Ceba* tree, the national tree of Guatemala. Birds and animals constructed of split reeds and painted nylon will be carried aloft on eight-foot poles.

Sponsored by University Circle Incorporated, storyteller and theater educator Hassan Rogers will work with fourth grade classes at Wade Park Elementary (Cleveland) to write original folktales, choosing one story to develop into a Parade entry and performance on Wade Oval.

First-time guest artist Zaida del Rio — one of Cuba's most renowned contemporary artists — will create an eight-member ensemble depicting bird-like women using dancers from the Hathaway Brown dance program. Michael Guy James of Trinidad and Sue Berry and Lizzie Roche (both CMA artists) will assist with construction. Story Rhinehart, a Hathaway Brown alum, will provide the choreography.

In addition to del Rio, these guest artists from around the world will take part in the Parade by creating ensembles, serving as technical specialists, and directing outreach programs with various community organizations throughout Cleveland. Making their first appearance at the Parade will be Cuban artists Roiadi Cartaya Carvajal, Alejandro Calzada Miranda, and Andres Cabrera Garcia. Kester Jerry is from Trinidad and Tobago. Returning Parade artists are Michael Lee Poy (Montreal), Amy Ballestad and Mary Jo Nikolai (Minneapolis), Murphy Winters (Trinidad), and Rick Simon and Brad Harley (Toronto).

Kicking off the Parade procession will be an East-Indian-inspired group of 12 dancers, wearing flowing white skirts and pants, accented by fabric and batiked with palm fronds. Grass headpieces and giant, batiked silk umbrellas will complete the costumes.

The finale's 23 dancers, stilt dancers, and puppeteers will feature a theme of natural recycled objects. Masks and costumes will incorporate dyed calabashes, grasses, seeds, and shells. The hand-dyed, earth-tone costumes will be influenced by the indigenous peoples of the world. Professional dancers from In · Let Dance Theatre, Michael Metcalf Contemporary Dance, and Dance Afrika Dance, plus students from Youth at Risk Dancing (the YARD) at the Cleveland School of the Arts, will round out the ensemble.

Note: Public workshops to prepare for **Parade the Circle Celebration** (June 8, 2002) will begin at the CMA April 26, 2002, and continue right up to Parade Day. Workshops will focus on mask masking, batik, stiltdancing, and the making of costumes and giant puppets. Participants can create their own ensembles using papier mâché, cloth, and recycled materials. Interested representatives should call CMA's community arts office at (216) 707-2483 for more information.

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Circle Village

Circle Village, composed of more than 25 University Circle organizations, will feature plenty of *new* and exciting hands-on activities for people of all ages.

The African-American Museum and the Cleveland Museum of Natural History will collaborate to present *Spirit of the Mask*. On display will be masks from around the world and information about their intriguing uses, ranging from celebration and hunting to healing. Participants may create their own decorative mask while savoring the sounds of storytelling and music.

Parade celebrants may also create *A Peter Rabbit Garden Necklace* — a colorful and unique adornment of fresh salad vegetables — an activity offered by the Cleveland Botanical Garden and Judson Retirement Community.

The Dunham Tavern Museum encourages visitors to *Twirl a Whirligig*. In 1824, when Rufus and Jane Dunham built their home and tavern on present-day Euclid Avenue, whirligigs were a popular homemade toy. This activity will be located on the lawn of the Western Reserve Historical Society, where visitors may create original designs on a poster board circle and pull its string to watch the kaleidoscopic effect as the toy whirls and hums.

Metropolitan Bank & Trust and Young Audiences of Greater Cleveland will present the *Caribbean Creation Station*, in which participants may create a Caribbean Carnevale mask and explore a wide range of visual art design elements. This activity will take place on CMA's lawn.

The Health Museum of Cleveland will present *Who's Behind Those Glasses?,* in which stylish spectacles may be made in the shape of a giant tooth or heart.

Circle Village spills over onto the front lawn of the Western Reserve Historical Society (10825 East Boulevard) with numerous activities featuring the Society's historic sites in addition to Dunham Tavern's Whirligigs. These include time travel to the 1850s to play old-fashioned games with costumed characters from Hale Farm; a medley of crafts from Shandy Hall and the James A. Garfield National Historic Site; and a leap into the 20th century with a tantalizing sampling of American classics from the Crawford auto collection. Visitors may collect recipes from each site.

Music and Entertainment

Featured Parade the Circle Celebration acts will be the Swamp Boogie Queens (blues); Blue Lunch (swing and blues); the Cleveland Music School Settlement Percussion Ensemble, and Mellow Harps (steel drums). Dance groups are Dance Afrika Dance, the Repertory Project, the Dance Theater Collective, and SAFMOD.

Prior to the Parade, interactive entertainers will engage audiences all along the Parade route. Performing near the Cleveland Institute of Music will be Partners in Rhyme. Drumplay (Western Reserve Historical Society), the Mad Mountain Juggler (CMA), and King Henry's Touring Company (Case Western Reserve University) will complete the entertainment lineup.

Throughout the day, visitors can enjoy scrumptious, mouth-watering treats from some of the area's finest food vendors: Celebrations by Aunt Elaine, Crepe Expectations, European Gourmet Almonds, Hecks Catering, Hot Sauce Williams, Mi Pueblo Restaurant, Pearl of the Orient, Pierre's Ice Cream, Rascal House Pizza, Schtick's Vegetarian Kitchen, Sunshine Cuisine, and University Circle Arabica.

"Each institution works for months prior to Parade the Circle Celebration to create an engaging activity for the public to enjoy," notes David Abbott, President of UCI. "University Circle Incorporated is delighted to coordinate these activities showcasing the Circle. It's a fabulous, fun day."

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Parking and Handicapped Seating

Parking is available for $7 at these locations: the Ford/Euclid Avenue surface lot and the Ford Drive garage. Parking on side streets is available throughout the area. The Parade route and other streets will be closed to traffic from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Handicapped seating will be available on the front lawn of The Cleveland Institute of Music (11021 East Boulevard).

Note: The CMA surface lot will be closed all day. The deck will be closed to the public until 1 p.m. Space will be limited in the afternoon.

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Those interested in participating in the Parade should contact the CMA's community arts office at (216) 707-2483. For more information about CMA and its events, call **1-888-CMA-0033** or visit **www.clevelandart.org**. For questions about the Circle Village, contact UCI at (216) 707-5035.

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Parade the Circle Celebration is presented by the institutions of University Circle. The Parade is produced by the CMA and the Circle Village is coordinated by UCI.

The Parade is sponsored by Metropolitan Bank & Trust with generous support from The George Gund Foundation. Additional support for the event comes from the Ohio Arts Council; the City of Cleveland; Cleveland City Council members Patricia J. Britt (Ward 6), Sabra Pierce Scott (Ward 8), and Kevin Conwell (Ward 9); and the Cleveland Coca-Cola Bottling Company, Inc. Promotional support is provided by *The Plain Dealer*, 89.7 WKSU, and Mix 106.5.

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